Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-10 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-09 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /190 W

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P 080039Z SEP 78 FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3250

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FOR WEAPONS PRECON DEL FROM AMB. ALDRICH

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PLOS, PARM

SUBJECT: VOTING PROCEDURE

REF: GENEVA 13447

1. WHILE IT IS OBVIOUSLY UNREALISTIC TO INSIST TO THE END ON A STRICT CONSENSUS RULE FOR A CONFERENCE OF MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED COUNTRIES, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON THIS PROCEDURAL ISSUE PRIOR TO FULL DISCUSSION BY PREPCON OF THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. IT IS CLEAR THAT MOVEMENT AWAY FROM CONSENSUS WOULD BE HIGHLY RISKY IF SERIOUS ATTENTION IS LIKELY TO BE GIVEN AT THE ULTIMATE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE TO IRRESPONSIBLE PROPOSALS ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF SIGNIFICANT WEAPONS. WE NEED TO HAVE A BETTER GAUGE OF THE ATTITUDES OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES ON THE WEAPONS QUESTIONS AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO HELP SHAPE THOSE ATTITUDES ALONG RESPONSIBLE LINES BEFORE WE CAN DECIDE WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT TO COMPROMISE ON THE CONFERENCE DECISION MAKING PROCEDURE. MOREOVER, EARLY COMPROMISE WOULD REDUCE OUR LEVERAGE WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.

2. THESE CONSIDERATIONS LEAD ME TO CONCLUDE THAT WE

SHOULD STAND FIRM AGAINST QUICK COMPROMISE ON THE PROCEDURAL QUESTION AND MAKE CLEAR THAT IT CAN BE DECIDED ONLY AFTER SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS, PRESUMABLY NOT UNTIL SOMETIME DURING THE SECOND PREPCON. MOREOVER, IT IS WORTH REPEATING IN LOW KEY TO OTHERS AT CONFERENCE WHAT I SAID LAST WEEK - I.E., THAT WE ARE NOT COMMITTED TO SUPPORT OR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ULTIMATE WEAPONS CONFERENCE UNLESS WE ARE SATISFIED ON BOTH PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE GROUNDS THAT IT WILL ACT RESPONSIBLY. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: VOTING, PROCEDURE

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 08 sep 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN03502
Document Source: CD02

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:** Film Number: D780365-0362 Format: TEL

From: USUN NEW YORK Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780985/aaaacsxm.tel

Line Count: 72 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 0a1e1054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION DLOS

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 GENEVA 13447

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 05 may 2005 Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1496536 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: VOTING PROCEDURE

TAGS: PLOS, PARM

To: GENEVA Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0a1e1054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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